



Museum of Nature and Science

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### COOL BLAST BRINGS HOLIDAY WONDERS TO THE PEROT MUSEUM WITH *BIRDS OF PARADISE* EXHIBITION, *GIANT GEMS*, 3D FILMS, FAMILY-FUN DAYS, SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND MORE

*From bizarrely beautiful birds to glistening giant gems, an array of amaze-your-brain adventures await this holiday season; plus Late Nights, Discovery Camps, daily Thanksgiving and winter break activities, extended hours and more*

**DALLAS (Nov. 10, 2016)** – Football-sized gems, show-stopping birds who strut their stuff, dry ice, liquid nitrogen, acorn dissecting, dancing corn and “blubber” gloves are among the Perot Museum of Nature and Science’s festive lineup of holiday happenings. At the pinnacle is the groundbreaking *Birds of Paradise* exhibition, where the adventures and stories behind the first survey of all 39 birds-of-paradise are documented and brilliantly displayed. Also adding sparkle to the season are 29 magnificent gems, never before seen together, in *Giant Gems of the Smithsonian*. Other holiday happenings include extreme 3D films, a “winter wonderland” sleepover, free cocoa with any dessert purchase in the Café (Dec. 1-31), *Discovery Camps*, special activities and family programming, plus extended hours during the Thanksgiving and winter breaks (at select times).

“Whether you’re looking for a family adventure or a way to entertain your out-of-town guests, the Perot Museum will once again pull out all the stops for the holidays. Our goal is to ensure that each visit, whether first or 50<sup>th</sup>, is memorable and unique,” said Dan Kohl, Perot Museum’s interim chief executive officer. “The holidays are a perfect time to be amazed and inspired by the world around us.”

For all the holiday highlights, see below:

***BIRDS OF PARADISE* (through Jan. 8, 2017)** is a story of nature’s most fascinating feathered flirts – the extravagant birds that have inspired a recent social media craze. A science exhibition, art show and natural history display in one, *Birds of Paradise*, co-produced by *National Geographic* and the *Cornell Lab of Ornithology* takes visitors on an expedition to a New Guinea rainforest to witness the spectacular plumage and dazzling dance moves of the family of birds known as birds-of-paradise. Through beautiful *National Geographic* photography, follow the adventures of two determined researchers who made 18 trips to New Guinea over eight years to complete the first survey of all 39 known species of birds-of-paradise. *Birds of Paradise*, a *National Geographic* exhibition presented locally by *Highland Capital Management*, requires a surcharge for members and non-members.

***GIANT GEMS OF THE SMITHSONIAN* (through Jan. 17, 2017)**. Never before seen together, nearly 30 magnificent, Texas-sized gems from the Smithsonian’s world-renowned National Gem Collection are on display in the *Lyda Hill Gems and Minerals Hall* on Level 3. The mineral masterpieces, many weighing 1,000-plus carats, include an “American Golden” topaz that tips the scales at almost 23,000 carats (more than 10 pounds), a blue topaz “football” of nearly 7,000 carats, a kunzite Tiffany necklace, a Mogul emerald diamond necklace and more. This temporary installation marks the first time such a large collection of Smithsonian gems, some of which have never been displayed in any museum, are on exhibit outside the famed Washington museum complex. *Giant Gems of the Smithsonian* is free with Museum general admission.

**3D FILMS IN THE HOGLUND FOUNDATION THEATER, A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE.** Wild weather, extreme space and aerial excursions throughout Earth lend exciting insight into some of science’s most enthralling mysteries. Holiday films include *Asteroid: Mission Extreme 3D* (through Jan. 8, 2017), *Earthflight 3D* (through March 10, 2017 – a perfect film to pair with *Birds of Paradise*!) and *Extreme Weather 3D* (through May 25, 2017). To view film trailers and schedule, go to [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org). *Films are presented*

locally by Primrose Schools. Ticket prices below.

**PROGRAMS.** A birds-themed *Discovery Days*, *First Thursday Late Nights* featuring space and robotics, a “winter wonderland” sleepover, plus special activities, *Discovery Camps* and extended hours during the Thanksgiving and winter breaks, equals a flurry of fun at the Perot Museum.

**THANKSGIVING AND WINTER BREAK.** The kids are out of school, and parents can keep young minds alert during the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. At select times during both Thanksgiving break Nov. 19-27 (except for Nov. 24) and winter break Dec. 24-Jan. 8 (except for Dec. 25), guests of all ages can enjoy daily brain-boosting experiences, from bookworm readings and science trivia to activities and demos such as acorn dissecting, pine cone science, blubber gloves, dancing corn, holiday table “magic” and more. Plus, little ones ages 5 and under can enjoy themed crafts such as turkey headbands and “polar opposites” animal art daily until 3 p.m. *Activities are free with general admission.* Visit [perotmuseum.org/holiday](http://perotmuseum.org/holiday) for daily schedules. **Note: The Museum will be closed Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) and Christmas (Dec. 25). Please check below for additional holiday hours.**

From Nov. 21-23, pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> graders can indulge in three days of flight-inspired fall *Discovery Camp*. From birds and planes to rockets, kids can build their own flying machines, explore space and learn about the rare and unique birds-of-paradise. Then from Dec. 27-30, winter *Discovery Camp* will take pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> graders into the “cool science” worlds of robotics, chemistry and the marine biology of Arctic creatures. Visit [perotmuseum.org/camps](http://perotmuseum.org/camps) for registration and additional details.

**2017 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE! SPEAKERS SERIES.** Call it story time for adults. The 2017 *National Geographic Live! Speaker Series* kicks off Jan. 5 with Hilaree O’Neill, the first woman to climb the world’s first- and fourth-tallest mountains (Mount Everest and Lhotse, respectively) in under 24 hours. As a professional skier, mountaineer, writer and mother, O’Neill will discuss her many adventures in *Hilaree O’Neill: Point of No Return*. The series continues on March 2 with aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan, host of Nat Geo’s *Monster Fish* TV show, plus NFL cheerleader-turned-primatologist Mireya Mayor on May 4. All three talks will take place at 7 p.m. in *The Hogle Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience*. Season ticket packages are \$75 for Museum members and \$90 for non-members. Individual tickets are \$30 for Museum members and \$35 for non-members. *National Geographic Live! is presented by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*

**FAMILY-FUN EVENTS.** There are plenty of reasons for a repeat visit this holiday season! Folks looking to visit after dark will enjoy *First Thursday Late Nights* on Dec. 1 (themed Space) and Jan. 5 (themed Robotics) when the Museum stays open until 9 p.m. with inventive and edgy experiences. On Dec. 10, the family-fun *Discovery Days: Birds* will feature feathered-fun activities on every floor from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. After 2016 is put to rest, kids and their adult chaperones can snore and explore during the Museum’s “winter wonderland” sleepover on Jan. 7, complete with exciting animals, science experiments, a screening of the holiday film *Elf*, a *Fire & Ice* demo, a dance party plus a winter wonderland-themed photo to take home. *Discovery Days and Late Nights are free to members and included with general admission for non-members. The Winter Wonderland Sleepover is \$50 per youth and \$40 per adult chaperone.*

## **GIFTS THAT FIT ALL AGES AND STAGES**

**Fun, brain-teasing and quirky gifts.** Fantastic gifts for the kids and quirky cool items for all ages are in store at the Museum Shop. From unique science-themed toys, jewelry, ornaments and gadgets to the ever-popular ugly dinosaur sweaters, shoppers can check out all the fun finds at [store.perotmuseum.org](http://store.perotmuseum.org).

**Memberships as gifts.** Wondering what to buy that special someone who has everything? From individual memberships to entire households, the Perot Museum offers a variety of options that fit all sizes. Benefits include free general Museum admission for the membership year, extended hours, and discounts to ticketed exhibitions, lectures, programs, special events, parking and purchases in the Museum Shop and Café. Household-level members receive additional perks dependent on level, such as general admission guest passes and access to *KidsClub!*. **Plus, Perot Museum members receive 15% off the purchase of gift memberships!**

Family-level memberships start as low as \$119. For details, call 214-756-5751 or go to [perotmuseum.org/membership](http://perotmuseum.org/membership).

**HOURS.** General hours of operation for the Perot Museum are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. On the first Thursday of each month, the Museum will remain open until 9 p.m. for *First Thursday Late Night*.

**Holiday and other special hours.** The Perot Museum will close Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving) and Dec. 25 (Christmas). The Museum will offer extended hours until 7 p.m. Nov. 25-26 and Dec. 26-Jan. 1, except for Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) when the Museum will close at 3 p.m. and Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve) when the Museum will close at 5 p.m.

**Member-only mornings.** From 9-10 a.m. every Saturday and 11 a.m.-noon every Sunday, members can enjoy exclusive access to the Perot Museum, plus member-only access to the *Moody Family Children's Museum* on Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon.

**TICKETS.** Museum general admission is \$19 for adults (18-64), \$12 for youth (2-17) and \$13 for seniors (65+). Museum general admission is free for members. Admission to the theater is \$6 for a short film (20-25 minutes) and \$8 for a long film (40 minutes). For members, admission to the theater is \$5 (short film) and \$6 (long film). Films and general admission for children under 2 are free. For groups of 10 or more, call for special rates at 214-428-5555 ext. 8. All prices are subject to change.

***Birds of Paradise*** requires a surcharge for a total admission cost of \$27 for adults (18-64), \$19 for youth (2-17), \$20 for seniors (65+), and free for children under 2. Member tickets are \$6 for adults (18-64) and \$5 for youth (2-17) and seniors (65+).

The Perot Museum is located at 2201 N. Field Street in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org) or call 214-428-5555.

**NOTE: To obtain the news release, Perot Museum fact sheet, photos, b-roll and film trailers, please go to [perotmuseum.org/press](http://perotmuseum.org/press).**

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***About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.*** *The top cultural attraction in Dallas/Fort Worth and a Michelin Green Guide three-star destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational organization located in the heart of Dallas, Texas, with campuses in Victory Park and Fair Park. With a mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the Perot Museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor and outreach experiences through its education, exhibition, and research and collections programming for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The 180,000-square-foot facility in Victory Park opened in December 2012 and is now recognized as the symbolic gateway to the Dallas Arts District. Future scientists, mathematicians and engineers will find inspiration and enlightenment through 11 permanent exhibit halls on five floors of public space; a children's museum; a state-of-the art traveling exhibition hall; and The Hoglund Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience. Designed by 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm Morphosis Architects, the Victory Park museum has been lauded for its artistry and sustainability. To learn more, please visit [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org)*

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